

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

OF THE

DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1973. This is the last in the long series of annual reports prepared by your Medical Officers of Health as a statutory obligation since the formation of the District Councils, for the reorganisation of the Health Service and of local government makes the present form of report inappropriate for the future. The statutory requirement for the annual report ceased with the repeal of the Public Health Officers' Regulations on 1st April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972. The general form and content of this report is similar to those prepared in recent years, although information on the services in which no significant change has occurred has been curtailed to facilitate the drafting of the report at a time when local government officers have been so fully engaged. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors reviewing their work throughout the year and once again I am indebted to the Housing Managers for the details of the progress in housing in the respective Districts.

The Vital Statistics given in the same form as in previous years show that the health of the Districts has been well maintained. The marked drop in the number of births in the District of Hatfield from 599 to 480 caused a fall in the standardised birth rate to 11.4 a figure closer to the corresponding rate for Welwyn Garden City. The Infant Mortality Rates compare favourably with previous years and there were no maternal deaths. The prevalence of infectious diseases remained low and there were no outbreaks of food poisoning apart from a family at Hatfield where abdominal upset was shown to be due to the consumption of cooked rice contaminated with bacillus cereus in a local restaurant. In December two young persons in Hatfield died from acute meningococcal meningitis after a very short illness, the strain of organism being resistant to the usual chemotherapeutic drugs. Other sporadic cases with high mortality have been notified in surrounding areas. The typhoid infection in Welwyn Garden City was contracted abroad. None of the home contacts were infected and the family has since removed to the Midlands.

During 1973 the attention of the senior officers of the Department has been given to the reorganisation of the environmental health services within the Welwyn Hatfield Council and the links with the District Community Physician appointed as 'Proper Officer' or adviser to the Council on the medical aspects of the control of infectious diseases and food poisoning. By his training, experience and position the District Community Physician will be able to provide the medical advice required by the District Councils not only for the control of infectious diseases and food poisoning but also over the whole range of environmental health hazards and epidemiology working in close relationship with the environmental health officers and other departments of the Councils.

One cannot as yet foresee how these new relationships will evolve for the Community Health Council, and the Joint Consultative machinery between the local government units and the N.H.S. have yet to be set up. The size and diverse population groupings with the East Herts Health District must make it difficult at the outset for the District Community Physician to maintain the personal contacts within the three Districts provided formerly by the District M.O.H. Changes of senior medical staff necessitate re-arrangements of the medical backing for the environmental health officers and for infectious disease control but I find that there is much good will on both sides as well as an understanding of temporary problems. As regards infectious disease control there is no doubt that the new arrangements will provide more effective and precise cover than was formerly given.

The Welwyn Hatfield Council is fortunate to have a full establishment of environmental health officers and technical assistants in post conveniently based at Welwyn and seemingly already well integrated into their new roles. In the Health Service the reorganisation has been at a slower pace so that many former medical officers of health not yet appointed to Community physician posts are still unsure of their future roles and prospects. I am grateful to Dr. Rigby who continues to undertake much detailed work on environmental health and housing priorities, and to Mr. Bailey and Mr. Gardiner with whom it was always a pleasure to plan the work of the departments and discuss the varied health problems arising in the work of the departments.

G.R. Taylor

August 1974.

District Community Physician

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1973

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

I.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

L. GARDINER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

D.H. RATLIFF, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D.G. FENTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Assistants:-

T.D.E. TREVIS

G. HESKETH

Clerks:

Mrs. D.L. WALLACE

A.A.W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres 4,231
Population (mid year 1973 estimated by the Registrar General 39,900

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	320
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	442
Rate per 1,000 population	11.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.0
STILLBIRTH	
Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	9.0
Total live and stillbirths	446
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	6
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 Legitimate live births	12.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "	45
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	14
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & stillbirths)	20
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Population

The Registrar General 's estimate of population in Mid 1973 was 39,900 a decrease of 670 compared with the previous year.

Births

The steady decline in the number of births continues (442) due to increased knowledge of family planning and a decline in the number of women of child bearing age.

Deaths

The table below gives the causes of death throughout the year given by the Registrar General.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ave past five years</u>
Heart Disease	66	39	105	82
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	5	13	11
Cancer, Malignant disease	42	29	71	65
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	16	40	56	46
Pneumonia	5	15	20	14
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	7	9	16	17
Road Traffic and other accidents	5	1	6	8
Leukaemia	2	1	3	2
Diabetes	-	-	-	2
Nephritis	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation	1	-	1	2
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	1	-	1	1
Suicide	1	4	5	-
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Difficult Labour	2	1	3	-
Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2	-
Other Defined Causes	12	6	18	18
<hr/>				
	169	151	320	
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Deaths from Cancer: Total 71

Respiratory tract	-	20	Alimentary tract and liver	-	15
Breast	-	5	Uterus	-	1
			Unclassified	-	30

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1969 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1973.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1969	14.4	0.87	12.5	6.9	1.74	12.0	7.0
1970	13.7	0.87	11.9	7.9	1.77	14.0	14.0
1971	12.8	0.87	11.1	7.2	1.77	12.7	23.0
1972	12.0	1.04	12.5	7.9	1.40	11.1	14.0
1973	11.1	1.07	11.9	8.0	1.32	10.6	14.0
England and Wales 1973			13.7			12.0	17.0

The standardised birth rate for the town (11.9) continues to be below the National and County rate, while the infant mortality rate (14.0) continues at the average rate for the past few years.

Infant Mortality

The ages and causes of death were as follows:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
2½ hours	F	Respiratory distress syndrome
4 "	F	Hydrops Foetalis Anaemia
18 "	M	Prematurity
1 day	M	Prematurity
2 days	M	Asphyxia Neonatorum
3 weeks	M	Cardiac arrest - Respiratory failure.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	7	(4)	Typhoid	1	(-)
Whooping Cough	4	(-)	Meningitis	1	(4)
Measles	25	(21)	Diphtheria	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(-)	Poliomyelitis	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	2	(1)	Infective Jaundice	2	(3)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1972)

The notifications continue at a low level as in recent years. The measles infections mainly occur in those few young children first attending nursery or school who have missed their preventive vaccination. The notification of typhoid relates to a young immigrant woman who contracted the infection abroad. No other members of the family were infected.

Tuberculosis

A total of 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 non-pulmonary were reported during the year, five men aged 30, 44, 53, 59 and 74, and one women aged 49.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Company has provided monthly reports regarding the quality of the water supplied to this district. The 1973 figures are tabulated below:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
1973			
January	12	12	-
February	12	12	-
March	16	15	1
April	12	12	-
May	12	12	-
June	16	15	1
July	13	13	-
August	15	15	-
September	13	12	1
October	12	12	-
November	16	16	-
December	13	12	1
	<u>162</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>4</u>

All the samples were considered to conform to the standards of purity suitable for public supply.

General

Every dwelling in the area has a direct supply piped from the public mains, and the water supply was found to be satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year.

Forty visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors to investigate complaints of various kinds about the water supply but nothing which adversely affected the town as a whole was found.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on a separate system. Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers and by means of gravity or through one of the five pumping stations and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeade.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram (approximately one mile) runs through the northern part of the district, and a portion of the River Lea (approximately half-a-mile) runs through the southern part of the district.

Lakes were formed on either side of Stanborough Lane during 1970 providing an expanse of approximately twenty-nine acres for boating and sailing purposes.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage, situated on the north-western boundary of the district, all the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are no sewers in the vicinity of this cottage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

- (a) House refuse is collected weekly in motor vehicles by the Council's staff. The refuse is taken to the Tip at Cole Green Lane owned by Inns & Co. Ltd.
- (b) Street cleansing is carried out by mechanical sweepers supplemented by manual sweeping as necessary.
- (c) Gully Cleansing:-

All gullies for which the Council is responsible are emptied and flushed three times a year by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd. who have a contract with the Council for this purpose.

- (d) Dustbins:-

The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Notifications of defective bins are passed to the Health Department by the refuse collectors and the owner of the premises is required to provide the necessary replacement bin.

5. SHOPS

Routine inspections of shops continued throughout the year, and fifty-one Informal Notices were served in respect of minor infringements of the Food and Drugs Act or Shops Act legislation.

6. THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises registered with this Authority at the end of 1973 was two hundred and ninety-nine.

Six thousand four hundred staff are employed in the registered premises and two-thirds of these are office workers.

Visits of all kinds to these premises totalled eight hundred and eighty-five and the types of infringements found and dealt with are shown as follows:-

Inadequate first aid equipment	:	4
Inadequate washing facilities	:	8
Danger or obstruction	:	7
Heating, Lighting & Ventilation	:	8
Lack of maintenance	:	12
Others	:	3

Twenty-three accidents caused employees to be away from work for more than three days, and investigations into the cause of the accident were carried out by the Health Department staff in twelve cases. Recommendations to improve conditions and reduce the hazard were made where necessary.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and nature of inspections made during
the year by the Public Health Inspectors:-

Factories (with mechanical power)	:	440
Factories (without mechanical power)	:	2
Licensed premises	:	67
Surveys and visits for Rodent Control	:	149
Shops	:	1,821
Insect Pests (other than bed bugs)	:	135
Schools	:	70
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	:	47
Dwelling Houses (under Housing Acts)	:	29
Inspections or Visits re:		
Drainage	:	328
Infectious Disease	:	166
Council Property (other than houses)	:	59
Noise	:	390
Water Supply	:	40
Dustbins & accumulations of refuse	:	263
Destruction of bed bugs	:	4
Miscellaneous visits	:	210
Number of Notices	:	30

(These Notices were all complied with)

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT AND AIR POLLUTION

Smoke observations made	:	442
Smoke nuisance or contraventions	:	14
Air pollution observations	:	401

Daily observations of smoke and sulphur dioxide are now only being taken at one of the two original sites, the Council Depot, Tewin Road.

The results at the two sites have been so similar that the one at the Campus has now been discontinued after consultation with Warren Spring Laboratory.

AIR POLLUTION cont.

An automatic sampler is now in operation at Tewin Road, and this is proving very useful as it only required one visit per week for maintenance.

Results 1972 - 1973
Micro Grammes per Cubic Metre

	<u>Smoke</u>	<u>Sulphur Dioxide</u>
Winter average	32	103
Peak level	137	309

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Three dwellings were treated for infestation during the year.

10. HOUSING

Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses for defects	:	291
(b)	Number of visits made for this purpose	:	504
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be fit or in which defects were found	:	86

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

(i) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during 1973.

(ii) Milk Sampling

Fifty samples of milk were obtained during the year for testing at the Public Health Laboratories. The samples were obtained from delivery vehicles and shops.

<u>Type of milk samples</u>	<u>No. of samples</u>
Pasteurised Milk :	18
Pasteurised and Homogenised :	8
Pasteurised Channel Island Milk :	16
Sterilised Milk :	6
Ultra Heat Treated :	2
	<u>50</u>

One sample failed the Methylene Blue Test and six samples were void.

2. ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

Forty-seven samples of ice cream and lollies were obtained during the year, and the results may be tabulated as follows:-

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>PROVISIONAL GRADE</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
Wrapped Brickettes	27	3	30
Wrapped Choc-bars	7	-	7
Iced Cream Lollies	3	-	3
Soft or loose Ice Cream	2	1	3
Fruit Lollies	4	-	4
	<u>92%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>100%</u>

3. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS (EXCLUDING MILK)

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption was 6,262 lbs. made up as follows:-

(i)	<u>Uncooked Food</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
	Meat	: 1,332
	Fish	: 121
	Dairy Products	: 40
(ii)	<u>Frozen Foods</u> (due to refrigeration breakdown)	
	Vegetables	: 353
	Fish	: 449
	Meat	: 586
	Ice Cream & Lollies	: 707
	Poultry	: 129
	Miscellaneous	: 2,465
(iii)	<u>Food in containers</u>	
	Meat	: 53
	Fruit	: 27

4. LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examination of food are carried out on behalf of the Council, as occasion requires, at:

- (i) Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Thresh House,
Verulam Street,
Gray's Inn Road,
London, W.C.1.
- (ii) Public Analyst,
20 Eastcheap,
London, E.C.3.
- (iii) Public Health Laboratory,
Luton and Dunstable Hospital,
Lewsey Road,
Luton.

Bacteriological examination only is carried out at:-

- (iv) Queen Elizabeth II Hospital,
Welwyn Garden City.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The provisions of this Act, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council. Sixty-three samples of food and drugs in common use were obtained in Welwyn Garden City during the year by Sampling Officers of the County Council. The following list shows the results of the formal and informal samples obtained.

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
Vanilla Ice Cream	Genuine
" " "	"
Cornish Pasties	"
Sausage Rolls	"
Skimmed Milk Soft Cheese	"
Butter Milk	"
Pure Lemon Essence	"
Lumpfish Caviar	"
Hot Lemon Tea Drink	"
Grapefruit Juice	"
Tomato Sauce	"
Sliced Savory Roll	"
Food Colours	"
Yeastrel	"
Nutmeg Powder	"
Mayonnaise	"
Yellow Food Colour	"
Blue Food Colour	"
Milk C.I.	"
Milk	"
Milk (Homog)	"
Milk (Ster)	"
Milk C.I.	"
Milk	"
Milk (Homog)	"
Milk (Ster)	"
Barmene	"
Barmene	"
Tomato Ketchup	"
Salad Cream	"
Chopped Ham Roll	"
Pate Dardennes	"
Polish Ring	"
Ham Sausage	"

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result</u>
Polish Krakowska	"
Low Fat Pineapple Yogurt	"
Frying Sausage	"
Rosterhtwurst	"
Mortadella	"
Westphalian Cervelat	"
German Salami	"
Danish Salami	"
Bierwurst	"
Horseradish Sauce	"
Tartare Sauce	"
Milk	"
Milk (Longlife)	"
Whisky	"
Milk	"
Milk C.I.	"
Milk (Homog)	"
Milk	"
Milk (Ster)	"
Quaker Oats - contained black particle	Blackmass was charred oat.
Irish Coffee Bar	Genuine
Fruit Bun - contained part of pencil	Baker fined £10 costs £5
Barmene	Genuine
Italian Peeled Tomatoes	"
Patty Shells - mildew	Caution
Pitzza - mouldy	Caution
Liver & Bacon Croquettes - mould growth	Caution
Ice cream - had bitter taste	Brine used as freezing agent: others genuine.
Mince Pie - contained a small stone	Caution

6. COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

Seventy-four complaints were received about food purchased in the town.

<u>Nature of complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints.</u>
Food containing foreign matter	35
Food with abnormal taste or smell	10
Food mouldy or decomposing	18
Others	11

Each case was investigated and, as far as possible, steps were taken which would prevent a repetition of the complaints.

7. VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD

Examination of meat and other foods	421
Food sampling	28
Sale of ice cream	35
Mobile vehicles selling ice cream	33
Mobile vehicles selling other foods	17
Laboratories with food samples	3

8. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Satisfactory provisions have been made in all the food premises for hand washing and the washing of equipment to comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Details of food premises and inspections carried out during the year are as follows:- (Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one shop each such trade is separately recorded)

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Industrial Canteens	17	56
School Canteens	31	95
Cafes and Restaurants	12	85
Licensed Premises	19	67
Food Manufacturers	7	131
Butchers	20	420
Fishmongers	6	303
Grocers	19	418
Greengrocers	17	390
Confectioners	16	305
Miscellaneous Food Premises	9	224

Informal Notices : 50 These were all supplied with...

GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

<u>Premises</u> (1)	<u>Inspections</u> (2)	<u>Number of Notices</u> (3)	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u> (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	440	12	-
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	2	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	-	-	-
Total	<u>442</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u> (1)	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u> (4)	<u>No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</u> (5)
	<u>Found</u> (2)	<u>Remied</u> (3)		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences S.7.</u>				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	12	12	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. FACTORIES ACT 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of one local factory distributed work to three local outworkers. The local outwork is carried out in satisfactory conditions and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition there were:-

5 local outworkers employed by a firm operating in Hatfield
2 " " " " " " Islington

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act 1961 came into force on 1st. April 1962 and repealed the Factories Act 1937 to 1959

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past fifty-one years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory and infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alterations of existing factories are examined by the Public Health Department before they are approved. The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Section 37 or 43 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Administration

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the General Assistant is employed for the greater part of his time in this work.

(b) Rodent Destruction

As a result of complaints, infestations of rats or mice were found to be present in eighty-four premises.

All dwelling houses in the district are treated without charge but rodent destruction on commercial or industrial premises is chargeable either by contract or by private works order. In these cases the agreement of the occupier of such premises to the charge has to be obtained before any disinfection is commenced.

Twenty establishments in the district negotiated contracts with the Local Authority in respect of twenty-three premises; the income from these contracts was £198. In addition the income from private works orders was £52.48.

Details of the type of infestations found were as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business & Industrial Premises under Contract</u>	<u>Business & Industrial Premises under Private Works Order</u>
Rats	2	23	1	3
Mice	-	25	5	17
	<u>2</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>26</u>

One thousand, one hundred and fifty-three visits were made as follows:

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business & Industrial Premises under Contract</u>	<u>Business & Industrial Premises under Private Works Order</u>
Rats	20	201	387	33
Mice	3	194	245	90
	<u>23</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>103</u>

5. INSECT PESTS

The following table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.

<u>Pest</u>	<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Wasps	127	118
Bees	19	23
Fleas	18	19
Beetles	11	14
Others	25	24
	<u>200</u>	<u>198</u>

Income from Insect Pest treatment by Private Works totalled £45

TABLE I		
Summary of the results of the experiments		
Experiment	Results	Remarks
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HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1973.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S., (Lond) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C.A. BAILEY, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R.H. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector:

P.C. WARD, Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

Student Public Health Inspector:

A.R. SILLS

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS

A.A.W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION
STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	21,914
Population (Mid year 1973 estimated by the Registrar General)	45,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	390
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	480
Rate per 1,000 population	10.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.0
STILLBIRTHS	
Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	8.0
Total live and stillbirths	484
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	7
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	15.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 Legitimate live births	16.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "	-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	10.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	19.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of death	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in mid 1973 was 45,500 a decrease of 220 over the figure for 1972.

Births

There was a decrease of 119 in the number of live births.

Deaths

49 more deaths were recorded than in the previous year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ave past five years</u>
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	17	53	70	76
Heart Diseases	57	50	107	99
Other circulatory diseases	3	13	16	14
Cancer Malignant disease	46	41	87	74
Pneumonia	12	14	26	18
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	10	9	19	17
Road Traffic and other accidents	5	5	10	12
Congenital Malformation	1	4	5	2
Leukaemia	2	2	4	2
Diabetes	-	-	-	1
Nephritis	-	1	1	-
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	-	1	1	3
Suicide	4	2	6	3
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Difficult delivery	-	2	2	-
Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2	-
Other defined causes	10	24	34	
<hr/>				
	168	222	390	
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Deaths from Cancer: Total - 87

Respiratory tract	-	20	Alimentary tract & liver	-	20
Breast	15		Uterus	-	3
			Unclassified	-	29

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1969, with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1973.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1969	13.4	0.91	12.2	7.7	1.14	8.8	15.0
1970	14.0	0.91	12.7	7.8	1.29	10.1	16.0
1971	13.0	0.91	11.8	8.9	1.29	11.5	15.0
1972	13.1	1.06	13.9	7.5	1.21	9.1	12.0
1973	10.5	1.08	11.4	8.6	1.23	10.5	15.0
England and Wales 1973			13.7			12.0	17.0

The marked fall in the birth rate resulting from 119 fewer births during the year is noteworthy and continues the steady decline of the past five years.

Infant Mortality

The ages and causes of death were as follows:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
1 hour	F	Intracranial haemorrhage
2½ hours	M	Prematurity
20 "	F	Prematurity
1 day	F	Inhalation of vomit
1 "	M	Respiratory arrest - cardiac arrest
3 months	F	Circulatory failure
4 months	F	Pneumococcal meningitis

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Infective Jaundice	3 (-)	Scarlet Fever	1 (-)
Whooping Cough	- (-)	Dysentery	1 (-)
Meningitis	2 (-)	Measles	35 (6)

Figures in brackets refer to 1972

The two cases of meningococcal meningitis are noteworthy. Each was a young woman previously in good health who rapidly became gravely ill with an overwhelming meningococcal infection presenting the classical picture of acute cerebro spinal meningitis. In spite of prompt hospitalisation and treatment with chemotherapeutic drugs both patients died from overwhelming septicaemia within 48 hours of the onset of the illness. No evidence of contact with other cases was found and the home and office contacts did not contract the infection. Similar clinical cases with high mortality rate have occurred sporadically in surrounding districts in recent months.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING:

Unfit Housing - Housing Act, 1957

During 1973 one dwelling was represented as unfit for habitation. The owner did not contest the Demolition Order served by the Council, and the four occupants were found alternative accommodation.

The bungalow so demolished was:-

275 St. Albans Road West - By-Pass - Hatfield.

Dwelling demolished to make way for other development

Goldings House, Old French Horn Lane, Hatfield.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

Since the commencement of the improvement of houses with grants scheme first came into operation, Hatfield Rural District Council have approved over 400 "Discretionary" and 88 Standard applications.

The cost of improvement work in the last year or so has accelerated rapidly, of course, and although there have been many enquiries of the possibility of grants the number actually approved declined during 1973. Once again it was noticeable that a number of enquiries related to properties which were not eligible. Building materials and labour were at a premium.

Following is a summary of grants approved during 1973:

Discretionary	9	Average Cost of Grant	=	£712
Standard	3	" " " "	=	£48

Of the 9 "Discretionary" - 5 were owner/occupied
4 were tenanted.

Of the 3 Standard - 3 were owner/occupied.

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960:

Within the district there are 128 caravans - other than itinerants - on the ten licensed sites. The largest of these houses 87 vans at the Council's Ellenbrook Park site.

In addition there are two permanent gipsy sites, at Holwell and Barbaraville, the former having been established by the County Council and accommodating 16 caravans, with a further 6 at Barbaraville, which was set up privately by the Barbara Cartland, Lord Onslow Trust.

WATER:

Public Supply

The district is well served by the Lee Valley Water Company, with the exception of a few dwellings in isolated areas of private estates and other very small communities, which in total, amount to no more than 45. Supplementary water is obtained by way of a piped supply from Grafham reservoir, within the Great Ouse Catchment area.

The quality of water used for domestic purposes was satisfactory, as always.

Private Supplies

There are still 14 private wells/boreholes in use for domestic purposes, all of which are sampled regularly. Some of these are chlorinated at source, and three of the properties so served are also connected to Company mains but used only as emergency supplies, the consumers showing preference for their well water for domestic purposes.

The well serving Stanboroughbury Farm failed during the prolonged drought in the latter part of 1973, as a result of which a connection had to be made to the main piped supply.

Forty five samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

DRAINAGE:

The district is now well served by main drainage systems and it is difficult to foresee where any of the isolated small groups of dwellings would economically warrant connections to sewers.

Following is a summary of remaining private installations:-

Cesspools	100
Septic Tanks	40
Pails	9

MEAT INSPECTION:

The total number of pigs killed at the only licensed slaughterhouse within the rural district, i.e., at Bulls Lane, Bell Bar, was 244.

All carcasses and offal were inspected, the main reasons for condemnations being lung congestion or pneumonia, pericarditis, and very isolated tuberculosis infection in the head and mesentery.

FOOD CONDEMNATION:

The total amount of food condemned, other than at the slaughterhouse, was 2 tons 16 cwt., more than half as the result of breakdown in frozen food cabinets, the remainder being items such as canned foods, fresh fish and miscellaneous foodstuff.

FOOD COMPLAINTS:

For the past three years the number of complaints dealt with by the public health inspectors has increased considerably. Complainants usually only wished for the Department to bring it to the notice of the manufacturer or retailer, with consequent explanations.

However, of a total of 77 complaints involving food during 1973, three prosecutions were heard, details of which are as follows:-

	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
	£	£
(a) Mould in Beef Sausages	25.00	10.00
(b) Dirt in Milk Bottle	50.00	17.60
(c) Ice Cream Vehicle - Chimes	5.00	-
also offences under Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966	20.00	10.00

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970:

Within this category there are 282 classified food premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

The number of registered premises within the district was 336 of which 302 were inspected during the year. Altogether, 671 visits were made.

DEPOSIT OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT, 1972:

One hundred and two notifications were received of intention to remove poisonous waste, largely from factory premises, to approved disposal sites in the Essex area. Three day's notice of intent was given in each case.

RODENT CONTROL:

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

An additional rodent operative was appointed in July and is being trained jointly between Hatfield R.D.C. and Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. When the new Welwyn Hatfield District Council takes over in April 1974 there will then be 3 trained staff to deal with all rodent and pests problems.

No charge is made for treatments at dwelling houses but 43 contracts are worked at farms, business and industrial premises, which entail treatments and visits at least twice monthly. The income received from the latter amounts to approximately £600 p.a.

Following is a brief summary of treatments carried out:-

	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri- cultural</u>	<u>business etc.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Properties found to be RAT infested	249	35	49	333
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	82	35	26	143

INSECT PESTS:

The following pests were also dealt with:-

Wasps Nests	135	Cluster Flies	3
Wild Bees	7	Carpet Beetles	5
Ants	55	Bed Bugs	6
Woodworm	17	Mites	2
Fleas	19		

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1973

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S. M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D.N. SIBLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Building Surveyor and Inspector

D.G. SNOOK, A.C.S.I., Lic. I.A.A.S.

Works Supervisor

E. VINALL

Clerks:

J. EVANS

A.A.W. CALLABY

WELWYN SECTION
STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	5,232
Population (mid year 1973 estimated by the Registrar General)	8,410

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	73
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	109
Rate per 1,000 population	12.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	-
STILLBIRTHS	
Number	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-
Total live and stillbirths	109
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	1
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	9.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.2
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	-
Neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-
Early neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	-
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in mid 1973 was 8,410, an increase of 70 on the comparable figure for 1972.

Births

Live births showed an increase of 12 over the figure of 97 in 1972.

Deaths

There was little variation of note in the causes of death compared with previous years.

The following table gives the causes of death:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ave past five years</u>
Heart Disease	15	13	28	22
Cancer, Malignant disease	12	5	17	13
Other circulatory diseases	-	2	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	7	4	11	12
Pneumonia	-	3	3	4
Bronchitis & other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	2
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic and other accidents	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	1	-	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	-	1	1	-
Other defined causes	4	5	9	6
	40	33	73	

Deaths from Cancer: - 17

Respiratory	-	5	Alimentary tract and liver	-	5
Breast	-	Nil	Uterus	-	Nil
			Unclassified	-	7

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1969, with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1973.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1969	15.0	0.93	14.0	7.3.	1.16	8.5.	-
1970	13.8	0.93	12.8	10.4	1.09	11.3	36.0
1971	13.0	0.93	12.1	9.2	1.09	10.0	18.0
1972	11.6	1.11	12.9	8.4	1.20	10.1	21.0
1973	13.0	1.05	13.6	8.6	1.23	10.5	9.2
England and Wales 1973			13.7			12.0	17.0

The infant mortality rate is subject to wide variation due to the small number of deaths.

Infant Mortality

The age and cause of death was as follows:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
4 months	F	Operation for Hemicolecotomy for intussusception.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

6 Measles (4)

(The figure in brackets refers to 1972)

Tuberculosis

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis (male) was received during the year.

